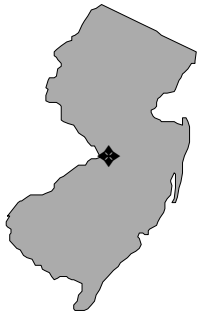
Size: 66 acres
Mission: Test engine systems and components
HRS Score: NA
IAG Status: None
Contaminants: Trichloroethene, freon, fuels, mercury, and solvents
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $19.4 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $6.5 million (FY2016)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY1999



Trenton, New Jersey

Restoration Background

In July 1993, the BRAC Commission recommended closure of this installation. Operations will be transferred to the Arnold Engineering Development Center and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. The installation is scheduled to close in December1998.

Contamination at the installation resulted from various fuels used to operate engines during tests and from trichloroethene (TCE), ethylene glycol, and freon used to cool the air entering the engines. Residues of fuels and solvents have been detected in groundwater and soil. Site types include underground storage tanks (USTs), disposal areas, and spill sites. The TCE-contaminated groundwater is the issue of greatest concern.

Since FY86, environmental studies at the installation have identified nine CERCLA sites and two UST sites. Removal of a tank and associated contaminated soil was completed for UST 2 in FY92 and for UST 1 in FY93. The two UST sites were then recommended for no further action (NFA).

A technical review committee was formed in FY91 and converted to a Restoration Advisory Board in FY93. In FY94, a BRAC cleanup team (BCT) was formed. The BCT prepared a BRAC Cleanup Plan (BCP) in FY95. To accelerate community reuse of installation property, a local company used a building under an interim lease. The installation has been divided into four parcels of property, and an Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) was completed for all parcels. One area, covering 10 acres, was identified as CERFA-clean.

During FY95, the installation began an Interim Remedial Action to treat TCE-contaminated groundwater at Site 1. To identify fractures and establish the properties of the rock, the U.S. Geological Survey conducted geophysical borehole investigations in conjunction with performance of aquifer tests by the Navy. Data from the investigations will enable the Navy to place future monitoring wells accurately to delineate the groundwater plume. In FY96, the design of a modified treatment plant was completed, contaminated sludge was removed from Site 3, and the installation completed a land reuse plan.

In FY97, the installation completed construction of the modified treatment plant for groundwater contamination, installation of monitoring wells at Site 1, the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for Site 2 and Sites 4 through 9, Phase II of the EBS, and design and implementation of an iron-filings treatment system for Site 1 groundwater contamination. A decision document for NFA was prepared for Site 3. In addition, the BCT prepared and reviewed the latest versions of the BCP and the EBS and conducted Site 3 decision document review, the Site 1 groundwater investigation, Site 8 barometric well closure, and preparation of an NFA document for Sites 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation completed a draft Environmental Impact Study and revised it to an Environmental Assessment. Decision documents were completed for Sites 1 through 9. The installation also completed a draft decision document for Site 1 groundwater, a draft EBS Phase III report, and a Focused FS. A finding of suitability to transfer (FOST) was issued for Parcel C, and a draft FOST was issued for Parcels A, B, and D. The installation completed soil removal at Site 1, a cap for Site 4, and Remedial Actions at 23 EBS areas of concern (AOCs). Six underground storage tanks were removed, and a treatment plant was expanded from 15 gallons per minute (gpm) capacity to 60 gpm. The installation removed sediment, which contained mercury, from outfalls and catch basins. The installation was able to identify the source of the mercury and remediate areas in the outfalls and catch basins. Leaking lines in the barometric well at Site 8 were investigated and a decision document was completed for this site.

Plan of Action

- Complete decision document for Site 1 groundwater in FY99
- Issue final FOST for Parcels A, B, and D in FY99
- Complete EBS Phase III report in FY99
- Complete closeout report for mercury contamination in FY99
- Complete remediation of remaining EBS AOCs in FY99
- Complete final design and construction of groundwater treatment plant in FY00

Sites Achieving RIP or RC Per Fiscal Year